



09 September 2024

# Commonwealth torture-prevention body visits immigration detention centres, police stations and an Australian Defence Vessel in the Indian Ocean Territories.

The Commonwealth NPM has published summaries of their visits to Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Border Force (ABF) detention facilities in the Indian Ocean Territories. These include:

- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Police Station (AFP)
- Christmas Island Police Station (AFP)
- Northwest Point Immigration Detention Centre (ABF)
- Phosphate Hill Immigration Detention Facility (ABF) and
- the *ADV Ocean Protector* (a seagoing patrol vessel to safeguard the security of Australia's maritime borders).

The summaries identify numerous challenges in operating remote area detention facilities but note that the police stations were rarely used due to strong community leadership. Following our visit, all the people held at the immigration detention facilities on Christmas Island were transferred to detention facilities on the mainland. A total of 5 recommendations and 35 suggestions were made to the AFP and ABF.

## OFFICIAL

The Commonwealth NPM, Mr Iain Anderson, said *"Our visit to the Indian Ocean Territories shows that risks of torture and ill-treatment can exist in all places of detention, no matter how remotely located or infrequently used the facilities are."*

The Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) monitors the conditions of facilities and treatment of people in places of detention in accordance with the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT)*.

To read the full Post Visit Summaries, view the Latest News on OPCAT here:  
[Monitoring places of detention – OPCAT](#).

For more information visit [ombudsman.gov.au](http://ombudsman.gov.au) or call [1300 362 072](tel:1300362072)

